



Inside Today

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USPS: Say Goodbye To Saturday Postal Service

BY PAULINE JELINEK
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Saturday mail may soon go the way of the Pony Express and penny postcards. The Postal Service said Wednesday that it plans to cut back to five-day-a-week deliveries for everything except packages to stem its financial losses in a world radically re-ordered by the Internet.

"Our financial condition is urgent," declared Postmaster General Patrick R. Donahoe. But Congress has voted in the past to bar the idea of eliminating Satur-

day delivery, and his announcement immediately drew protests from some lawmakers. The plan, which is to take effect in August, also brought vigorous objections from farmers, the letter carriers' union and others.

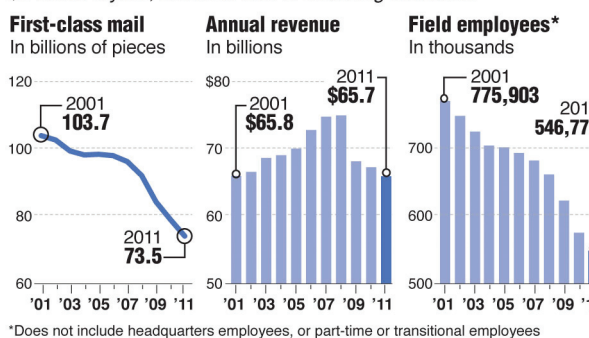
The Postal Service, which suffered a \$15.9 billion loss in the past budget year, said it expected to save \$2 billion annually with the Saturday cutback. Mail such as letters and magazines would be affected. Delivery of packages of all sizes

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Postal Service to cut delivery



The financially pressed U.S. Postal Service says it will stop delivering mail on Saturdays starting in August to save about \$2 billion a year; a look at USPS' declining numbers:



GF&P To Discuss Marina's Future

State Officials To Seek Proposals For L&C Marina Purchase

BY NATHAN JOHNSON
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PIERRE — South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks (GF&P) officials announced this week that a new operator is being sought for the Lewis and Clark Marina west of Yankton.

The GF&P Commission will convene at 2 p.m. today (Thursday) for a special teleconference meeting to consider a request for proposals for the marina concession.

"I realize there have been a lot of rumors floating around Yankton as to what is happening at the marina," said Doug Hofer, director of state parks for the GF&P, during a meeting with Yankton officials in Pierre. "Russ Marsh, who is the owner of the marina and has the concession on the restaurant, has formally announced he has the marina for sale and all his personal property that relates to the marina and the restaurant."

Marsh has two seasons left on his 10-year lease with the state for operating the marina, which includes 400 slips with on the water fuel, boat rentals, mechanical service, a convenience store and a restaurant. The request for proposals (RFP) will be for a new 10-year lease, not just a fulfillment of Marsh's current lease.

Hofer said he believes the restaurant has played a role in why Marsh wants out of the lease.

"I think he has been frustrated with having to run the restaurant, and that's one of the requirements of the lease," he stated. "As you all know, there has been kind of a revolving door of restaurant operators out there. Most of them sub-lease the facility from Russ. That's not been real stable."

Last year, Marsh handled the restaurant without anyone to sub-lease it.

Marsh did not return a message left by the Press &



Hofer

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A New Tool In Fighting Cancer

Cancer Center Adds New Varian Linear Accelerator For Radiation Therapy

BY ANDREW ATWAL
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The Avera Sacred Heart Cancer Center in Yankton is adding a new technology to make radiation treatment more comfortable for patients, and more accurate for doctors.

The Cancer Center is getting a new Varian Linear Accelerator, which is the device that produces radiation beams for radiation therapy.

"This type of accelerator is very advanced. With the old accelerator we had, it only let us take x-ray pictures of patients, which are two-dimensional," said Dr. Michael Peterson, radiation oncologist at the Cancer Center. "This one can do three-dimensional CAT scan images, which allows us to get much more detailed information about where the patient is positioned in relation to the beam the way we want them to be."

He added that the new machine can detect skin marks and how they shift in relation to the organ that doctors are trying to reach.

"If you actually have a CT-like image, it gives you much better assurance that doctors will be able to hit the treatment area in exactly the way they want to," Peterson said. "This means there is less of a need to treat normal tissue around the tumor to make sure you're hitting the area you want every time."

The machine will do a special type of treatment where its head can rotate around



KELLY HERTZ/P&D

Avera Sacred Heart Cancer Center dosimetrist Lindsey Olson (left), therapist Julie Steffen (center) and therapist Christy Jensen stand next to the center's new Varian Linear Accelerator, which is currently being installed. The device will provide far more accuracy in radiation therapy, and will work much faster than current equipment. The new accelerator is expected to operational later this winter.

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Senate Panel Postpones Vote On Hagel Nomination

BY DONNA CASSATA
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A Senate panel on Wednesday abruptly postponed a vote on Chuck Hagel's nomination to be defense secretary amid Republican demands for more information from President Barack Obama's nominee about his paid speeches and business dealings.

Sen. Carl Levin, D-Mich., the chairman of the Armed Services Committee, had hoped to vote on the nomination on Thursday during a separate hearing on Libya, but Levin issued a statement late Wednesday saying no vote would occur this week.

"The committee's review of the nomination is not yet complete. I intend to schedule a vote on the nomination as soon as possible," Levin said.

Hours earlier, committee Republicans said they were dissatisfied with information Hagel had provided the



PETE MAROVICH/MCT

Former Nebraska Sen. Chuck Hagel is shown testifying before the Senate Armed Services Committee in Washington last Thursday.

panel after his confirmation hearing last week, and no vote should occur. They focused on his speeches and affiliations with organizations such as the Atlantic Council, a nonpartisan public interest group.

Hagel, a former two-term Republican senator from

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GF&P: Many Projects Planned For Lewis And Clark Rec Area

BY NATHAN JOHNSON
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PIERRE — Approximately \$1 million will be spent on projects at the Lewis and Clark Recreation Area during the next 18 months, according to a South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks (GF&P) official.

"We've got a lot of things going on down there," said Doug Hofer, director of state parks for the GF&P, during a meeting this week with Yankton officials in Pierre.

Among the planned projects are:

- a \$664,000 expenditure to do an upgrade on the roads throughout the state park areas at Yankton.

"It's a huge project that will really ensure the quality of the area for a long time to come," Hofer said;

"We've got 25-40 buildings at Lewis and Clark that have to be maintained. A lot of them are comfort stations, and it takes this kind of investment over time to keep them up to date."

DOUG HOFER

- approximately \$20,000 to place riprap in the Lewis and Clark Recreation Area;
- approximately \$84,000 in building projects, which include improving floors in comfort sta-

LAKE | PAGE 14



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